



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER ROCKHURST EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING UNIVERSITY IN BRIBERY SCHEME, FILING FALSE TAX RETURN**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the former director of physical plant at Rockhurst University was sentenced in federal court today for defrauding the university by taking more than \$100,000 in bribes as a part of a kickback scheme, and for filing a false tax return.

**Ralph E. Dunn**, 65, of Niceville, Fla., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to one year and one day in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered Dunn to pay \$147,884 in restitution to Rockhurst.

On Sept. 24, 2003, **Dunn** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery and mail fraud and to filing a false tax return. **Dunn** is the former director of physical plant at Rockhurst University, a Jesuit university at 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, Mo., where he had worked for 23 years before retiring.

**Dunn** admitted that he conspired with **Charles A. Cacioppo, Jr.**, 52, of Kansas City, Mo., from June 1998 to June 2001, and with **Marvin Rogers**, 57, of Kansas City, Mo., from February 1996 to October 2000, to defraud Rockhurst University.

In separate but related cases, Graves said, both **Cacioppo** and **Rogers** have also pleaded guilty to their roles in the bribery and fraud schemes. **Rogers** was sentenced on Feb. 26, 2003, to five years of probation and ordered to pay \$37,000 in restitution, which is included in the total amount of restitution for which **Dunn** and **Rogers** are jointly and severally liable. **Cacioppo's** sentencing hearing is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2004.

Graves explained that **Dunn** and **Cacioppo** participated in a bribery conspiracy that involved contracts awarded by Rockhurst University to Industrial Salvage and Wrecking, Inc.

(ISW), which is owned by **Cacioppo**, and to Industrial Environmental Management, Inc. (IEM), which is co-owned by **Cacioppo**. ISW and IEM would submit invoices to Rockhurst charging more than the value of the work performed, Graves explained, and charging Rockhurst for projects that were never performed. **Cacioppo** bribed **Dunn** in order to receive various demolition and asbestos abatement projects.

From May 1998 to June 2001, ISW and IEM received over \$1 million in payments from Rockhurst. During this time, **Cacioppo** paid approximately \$110,000 in bribes to **Dunn**.

**Cacioppo** pleaded guilty to 16 counts of bribery, admitting that he paid 16 separate bribes to **Dunn** in the course of the conspiracy, ranging from \$1,500 to \$12,000. Those bribes were for demolition and other work done at several properties owned by Rockhurst, as well as work done at Xavier and Loyola dormitories, at Masseman Hall and Cochran Hall, and a football field between 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> streets in Kansas City, Mo.

**Rogers**, the owner of Commercial & Industrial Coating, admitted that he submitted invoices to Rockhurst University charging more than the value of the work performed, and charging Rockhurst for projects that were never performed. As part of the scheme to defraud Rockhurst, Graves said, **Rogers** paid **Dunn** for his approval of the inflated and fictitious invoices.

**Dunn** also admitted that he failed to report the bribes he received as part of the kickback scheme on his U.S. Individual Tax Return for 2000. **Dunn** reported \$51,119 in taxable income, Graves said, when in reality his true taxable income was \$118,014.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul S. Becker and Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, the Department of Labor Office of Labor Racketeering, and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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